



FREEDOM WATCH



October 9, 2002 ❖ Published in the interest of those serving in Operation Enduring Freedom ❖ Bagram, Afghanistan

News briefs

(Compiled from
CNN.com)

Judge orders ports opened

NEW YORK — The West Coast ports are slated to reopen this evening after a federal judge ordered a temporary restraining order to end a labor dispute that has choked U.S.-Asian trade and cost the struggling U.S. economy an estimated \$2 billion a day. President Bush had sought a court order to force operators of 28 ports from Seattle to San Diego to reopen to dockworkers, who earlier accused management of being in cahoots with the government.

Marines in fatal assault had no ammo

KUWAIT CITY, Kuwait — When U.S. Marines were fired on by two Kuwaiti nationals during a training exercise Tuesday, they had no way of defending themselves, U.S. officials said. The

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Chief Warrant Officers Scott Reagan (back) and Wes Cox, both with Company B, 1st Battalion, 229th Aviation Regiment, Fort Bragg, N.C., conduct pre-flight checks on their Apache "Heavy Metal."

Apache crew operates in Afghanistan

Story & photo by
Sgt. Reebea Critser
*28th Public Affairs
Detachment*

BAGRAM, Afghanistan — This is what they spent a year and a half in aviation

school at Fort Rucker, Ala., to do.

The pilots of 1st Battalion, 229th Aviation Regiment, Fort Bragg, N.C., live to fly Apaches.

"The Apache is the most deadly aircraft we have," said Capt. Erick

Enyart, battalion S-1. "We wait years and years for the opportunity to fly the one aircraft that's the toughest to get."

The Apache, according to Enyart, a Radcliff, Ky., native, was

named after a Native American tribe.

"Apaches are known for their fierce battle tactics," Enyart said. "In essence, they're the baddest (natives) out there."

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Rumsfeld says Afghan progress remarkable

By Jim Garamone
*American Forces Press
Service*

WASHINGTON — A year after the beginning of combat operations against the Taliban and al Qaeda in Afghanistan, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said the achievements of Coalition forces have been

remarkable.

Rumsfeld said during an Oct. 7 Pentagon news conference that the United States has put together a Coalition of more than 90 nations against the terror threat. He said it is the largest military coalition ever assembled.

"As we stated last Oct. 7, ... U.S. military objectives

in Afghanistan were to drive the Taliban from power, to capture, kill or disrupt al Qaeda, to provide humanitarian relief to the Afghan people and begin the process of creating conditions that will eventually make Afghanistan inhospitable to terrorist networks," he said.

Rumsfeld said he

would like to know what has happened to al Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden, but he is not frustrated. "We said when this began that it was not about one person," he told reporters.

The Coalition campaign in Afghanistan be-

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What makes the Apaches so fierce are their 30mm main gun and the capacity to hold 76 rockets and 16 Hell Fire missiles.

"I love the gun," said Chief Warrant Officer Wes Cox, an Apache pilot and native of Moultrie, Ga.

Of all the Army's aircraft, Enyart said the Apache is one of the safest.

"The Apache is designed (with protection) around the cockpit, much like NASCAR," he said. "It's designed for survivability of its crew."

Pilots describe the helicopter as well built, durable and safe. It also carries a lot of firepower and is very survivable.

"The Apache is the world's most advanced attack helicopter," said Chief Warrant Officer Zac Noble, pilot, a resident of Fayetteville, N.C. "Attack pilots want to be where the action is."

This is why many of the



Photo by Sgt. Reeba Critser
Cpl. Chris Blackmon, Company B, 1st Battalion, 229th Aviation Regiment, Fort Bragg, N.C., cleans the window of the Apache attack helicopter with windex and pledge before it takes off. Blackmon is a member of the "Heavy Metal" crew.

pilots wanted to come to Afghanistan.

"Most of us are prior service," Enyart said. "We wanted to fly the bird instead of watching them from the back seat."

"My family saw what happened Sept. 11," added Apache pilot Chief Warrant Officer Scott "Skinny" Reagan, a native of Summerville, S.C.

"They're proud that I'm here. They know what I can do. They know what the aircraft is capable of."

"We're prepared," said Cox, a single parent from Moultrie, Ga. "We know what the mission is. We know what we have to do."

The 229th is described as "the most deployed attack helicopter battalion in

the world," according to Noble. For this reason, he said the pilots' families support them. He added that his wife of 15 years is "supportive of the cause, though she doesn't like the separation."

Chief Warrant Officer Glenn Osborne, a Fayetteville, N.C., resident, said his wife understands his job, especially

since she's dealt with his two tours in Bosnia and one in Kosovo.

"Being an Apache pilot in today's environment, with the world the way it is, you have to go into it knowing you're giving a lot," Osborne said. "You have to communicate with your family. Each person has to know of the sacrifices."

Apache crews are placed on shifts 12 to 15 times a month. In Afghanistan, the birds have to be maintained at all times, according to Osborne. "Dust, dirt and heat affect the systems," he said. "Think of the weapon systems like letting a \$3,000 laptop sit on the flight line. It's not designed to tolerate the heat and dust, but we have always met mission because our guys bust butt to keep it clean."

Enyart agreed that Apache maintenance is the biggest challenge.

"Our crew chiefs work hard," he said. "They have the tans to prove it."

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gan less than a month after the terrorist attacks in New York and Washington. He said the U.S. strategy in the country capitalized on an imaginative combination of 21st century technology and 19th century military tactics. The coalition teamed air power, precision-guided munitions and state-of-the-art communications, with thousands of Afghan warriors on foot or on horseback.

He said that within a month the fruits of the actions were being reaped. Mazar-e Sharif fell Nov. 7, and then actions moved south with

the fall of Bagram, Kabul and, on Dec. 7, 2001, Kandahar—the stronghold of the Taliban.

He said the Afghan people have spoken via the *loya jirga* process and selected a government that is working to establish itself. The government needs help to maintain itself and to start bringing security to the region. U.S. and French trainers, for example, are training Afghan battalions for the national army. Other coalition partners are participating in the International Security Assistance Force.

U.S. and coalition allies are also working with the government to aid in rebuilding the country,

shattered by more than 25 years of war. Military and civilian organizations are providing food, water, health care and aid to returning refugees. Rumsfeld said it is a positive sign for the world that so many refugees — hundreds of thousands, according to the United Nations — are returning to their homes in Afghanistan.

But all this progress did not come cheaply. Fifty-three Americans have died in the region since combat began. Rumsfeld said the United States is committed to Afghanistan and ensuring it never again becomes a haven for inter-

national terror groups.

Operations in Afghanistan are just a part of the war on terrorism, the secretary reiterated. He said U.S. objectives remain to defeat those who use terrorism and those who host or support terrorists.

"There is no question that free nations are under threat," he said. "Thousands of terrorists remain at large in dozens of countries. They are seeking weapons of mass destruction that will allow them to kill not only thousands, but tens of thousands of innocent people."

"Our objective in the global war on terror is to prevent another Sept. 11 or an attack that is far worse."

HIND SIGHT

28 BC

The Temple of Apollo is dedicated on the Palatine Hill in Rome.

1470

Henry VI of England restored to the throne.

1760

Austrian and Russian troops enter Berlin and begin burning structures and looting.

1781

Americans begin shelling the British surrounded at Yorktown.

1825

The first Norwegian immigrants to America arrive on the sloop *Restaurationen*.

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Marines were practicing urban warfare tactics on Failaka Island in the Persian Gulf and were carrying no ammunition for their weapons, U.S. officials said. One Marine was killed and another was wounded. U.S. military police chased down the two assailants, who were dressed in civilian clothes and driving a pickup truck, and shot them dead, according to the officials. The Kuwait government called the incident a terrorist attack. Three AK-47 assault rifles were found in the civilian vehicle, but it was unclear whether the weapons were those used in the attack, U.S. officials said. The Kuwaiti Ministry of Interior identified the assailants as Jassem Al Hajiri, 28, and Anas Al-Kandari, 21. Kuwait officials said they had arrested 27 people in and around Kuwait City who had connections to the assailants, either as relatives or friends. The shootout happened about 11:15 a.m. (4:15 a.m. ET) Tuesday when 150 Marines from the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit were conducting urban assault training as part of an exercise called Eager Mace, U.S. officials said. U.S. and Kuwaiti officials were investigating the incident. U.S. officials said the Marines were participating in a non-live fire exercise — meaning they didn't have ammunition.

Bagram Air Base MWR movies

The Bagram Air Base Morale, Welfare and Recreation center will present "Tombstone" tonight at 1530Z at the MWR building.

Tomorrow's movie will be "We Were Soldiers," showing at the same time.

Local weather

TWO-DAY REGIONAL WEATHER REPORT:

	<i>Today</i>	<i>Thursday</i>
Bagram:	<i>Mostly clear</i> H: 82F L: 45F	<i>Mostly clear</i> H: 81F L: 46F
Kandahar:	<i>Haze</i> H: 91F L: 56F	<i>Dusty</i> H: 90F L: 50F
Kabul:	<i>Partly cloudy</i> H: 81F L: 46F	<i>Mostly clear</i> H: 79F L: 48F
Uzbekistan:	<i>Clear</i> H: 83F L: 51F	<i>Clear</i> H: 83F L: 51F

Weather forecast courtesy of the Bagram Combat Weather Team

FREEDOM WATCH

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- ❖ CJTF - 180 Commanding General — Lt. Gen. Dan McNeill
- ❖ CJTF - 180 Command Sergeant Major — Command Sgt. Maj. Steven R. England
- ❖ Public Affairs Officer — Col. Roger King
- ❖ Public Affairs Sergeant Major — Sgt. Maj. C.J. Costello

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- ❖ Commander — Capt. Timothy Beninato
- ❖ NCOIC — Staff Sgt. Rhonda M. Lawson
- ❖ Editor — Sgt. Reeba Critser
- ❖ Sports Editor — Spc. Alfredo Jimenez Jr.
- ❖ Journalists — Sgt. Jason Allgood, Spc. Erica Leigh Foley, Pfc. Nathan Akridge and Pfc. Eleazar Craig.

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To be added to the daily distribution list, e-mail reeba.critser@us.army.mil



COALITION SPORTSZONE

The Day in Sports

(Compiled from ESPN.com)

Twins eke out Game 1 win, thanks to Mays

MINNEAPOLIS — The Minnesota Twins just won't go away.

The team that wasn't supposed to make it to Opening Day isn't a surprise anymore.

Joe Mays shut down Anaheim for eight innings and Corey Koskie hit a go-ahead double Tuesday night, lifting the Twins over the Angels 2-1 in the opener of this improbable AL championship series.

Before 55,562 screaming, Homer Hanky-waving fans in the Metrodome, and with commissioner Bud Selig watching from a luxury suite behind home plate, the Twins signaled the time has come to forget the Yankees, Braves and other big spenders who have dominated the playoffs in recent years.

And they showed just how dominant they are in the Metrodome, improving to 13-2 there in postseason play. Game 2 is in the dome Wednesday night, with Rick Reed pitching for the Twins against Ramon Ortiz.

The Metrodome was festive and loud for its biggest night since Oct. 27, 1991, when Jack Morris pitched a 10-inning shutout against Atlanta to win Game 7 of the World Series 1-0.

This was another tense one, with the Twins getting just five hits and the Angels four. The crowd was on its feet shouting during the key points and throughout the ninth inning.

"This is the game we play against Anaheim every time," Pierzynski said. "One run, one way or the other, one pitch decides it. It's exciting baseball. You can't ask for much more as a fan or as a player."

Baseball owners had tried to fold the Twins along with the Montreal Expos last offseason, but were blocked by the Minnesota courts. Since then, the Twins have seemed intent on banging the gavel on all of baseball, wanting to force Selig to hand them the World Series trophy.

"Contract-ula-tions Twins for a superb season/All the way for Bud's sake" read one sign behind home plate.

2002 Major League standings

American League Championship

Minnesota vs. Anaheim

Tuesday

Minnesota 2, Anaheim 1, Twins lead 1-0

Wednesday

Anaheim at Minnesota

Friday

Minnesota at Anaheim

Saturday

Minnesota at Anaheim

Sunday

Minnesota at Anaheim, if necessary

Oct. 15

Anaheim at Minnesota, if necessary

Oct. 16

Anaheim at Minnesota, if necessary

National League Championship

San Francisco vs. St. Louis

Wednesday

San Francisco at St. Louis

Thursday

San Francisco at St. Louis

Saturday

St. Louis at San Francisco

Sunday

St. Louis at San Francisco

Monday

St. Louis at San Francisco, if necessary

Oct. 16

San Francisco at St. Louis, if necessary

Oct. 17

San Francisco at St. Louis, if necessary

Did you know ...

Have the Yankees *ever* lost to a more unlikely October opponent than the Angels? Before this meeting, the Yankees had won 41 postseason *series*, while the Angels had won six postseason *games*. The Yankees had won more World Series (26) than the Angels had *played* postseason games (16).

The Yankees had played 83 postseason games just since the Angels had *last* played a postseason game.

Big Ten Conference

Ohio St (5)	2-0	6-0
Iowa (20)	2-0	5-1
Michigan (10)	1-0	4-1
Michigan St	1-0	3-2
Minnesota	1-1	5-1
Penn St (17)	1-1	4-1
Purdue	1-1	3-3
Wisconsin (22)	0-1	5-1
Indiana	0-1	2-3
Northwestern	0-2	2-4
Illinois	0-2	1-5

Pac 10 Conference

Washington St (13)	2-0	5-1
Oregon (7)	1-0	5-0
UCLA (25)	1-0	4-1
Arizona St	1-0	4-2
California	1-1	4-2
USC (24)	1-1	3-2
Arizona	0-1	3-2
Washington (18)	0-1	3-2
Stanford	0-1	1-3
Oregon St	0-2	4-2

NCAA places Colorado football team on probation

BOULDER, Colo. — Colorado's football team was placed on two years' probation by the NCAA on Tuesday for recruiting violations, most of which occurred under former coach Rick Neuheisel.

The NCAA cut the school's football scholarships and accepted Colorado's self-imposed recruiting limits, including reducing the number of visits by recruits.

Neuheisel, now head coach at Washington, was barred from off-campus recruiting for the Huskies until May 31.

Colorado was not banned from television or bowl appearances but must

reduce the number of new scholarships it offers from 25 to 20 in either the 2003-04 or 2004-05 academic year.

NCAA institutions are allowed 56 expense-paid campus visits by recruits each academic year, but Colorado voluntarily reduced its number to 51 this year and will be limited to 51 next year.

In addition, the number of coaches who can recruit off-campus at any one time must be reduced from seven to six through July 31.

The football program was accused of 53 violations, 51

of them when Neuheisel was Colorado's head coach (1995-98). Many involved improper contacts with recruits.

"I want to stress that at no time did I intend to break NCAA regulations, and I never suggested to my staff we operate outside those rules," Neuheisel said in a statement. "I never deceived anyone, nor was I dishonest."

"While being creative in approach, I felt that I was operating within the letter of those rules. It was my mistake to make those judgments without consulting the proper sources at my dis-

posal as a head coach."

The NCAA's infractions committee ruled that Colorado didn't properly monitor its football staff.

"This was a serious case in which a football coaching staff, led by the former head football coach, in a calculated attempt to gain a recruiting advantage, pushed beyond the permissible bounds of legislation, resulting in a pattern of recruiting violations," the committee's ruling said.

During a hearing in August, Neuheisel told the committee he and his staff had accidental encounters with prospects on high school campuses but did not gain any recruiting advantage.



By Kevin Kilgore

Laugh Support

"Is that idiot, Smith, back from the promotion board yet?"



kevin_kilgore@hotmail.com